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throughout the year ; that it may not be let at any time for game preserving, or for any purpose inimical to bird life ; and that it may remain in perpetuity as a national memorial to the greatest outdoor naturalist England has produced—Gilbert White, of Selborne. Such a recognition, the Society urge, would show that the admiration of Gilbert White in the nineteenth century was so practical as to be of value to the naturalist and the English-speaking race for all succeeding time. The Society have no wish to attempt to interfere with the use of the Forest by the War Office for the purposes of military manœuvres.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

BILLS have been again introduced into both Houses of Congress to establish the University of the United States. Such a bill was introduced by Senator Edmunds in 1890 and referred to a select committee, which reported unanimously in its favor. The standing committee since appointed has also reported unanimously in its favor and it is said that the bill will probably be passed during the present session.

NEGOTIATIONS are said to be under way looking towards the affiliation of the University of Chicago and the Rush Medical College.

EVELYN COLLEGE, Princeton, has been closed, owing to the fact, as stated by the principal, that Princeton University refuses to recognize any work for the education of women.

MR. FRANZ KEMPE, of Stockholm, has given the University of Upsala the sum of about \$45,000 for the establishment of an associate professorship of physiological botany under the condition that Dr. Lundström be the first incumbent.

By the will of the late F. Ulrich the German University of Prague receives 100,000Fl. for the distribution of scholarships.

A PROPOSITION has been introduced into the French Chamber and referred to the Education Commission creating a chair of colonial science in the University of Paris.

PROFESSOR WALDEMAR LINDGREN, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been appointed to the chair of metallurgy and mining engineering in Stanford University.

MR. EDGAR R. CUMINGS, of Cornell University, who graduated from Union College last June with honors in geology, has been appointed instructor in geology in the University of Indiana.

DR. W. OPHÜLS, assistant in the University of Göttingen, has been called to the chair of pathological anatomy in the University of Missouri.

DR. S. FUCHS has been promoted to an associate professorship of physiology at the University at Jena.

THE regents of the University of the State of New York have just published as bulletin 38 a compilation of all the laws, ordinances and by-laws pertaining to higher education in this State. It includes not only the University law, but also the educational articles from the Constitution and the various statutes governing professional education and license to practice, and other allied matters. Its practical utility is greatly increased by many annotations and cross references and by a very full index, so that every lawyer or school officer will find it indispensable when considering any of the large class of questions covered. It is being sent to every institution in the University free, but lawyers or others interested may obtain copies from the regent's office, post-free, at the nominal price of 15 cents for the 108 pages.

THE report of the Sites Syndicate of Cambridge University was approved on November 25th. By it provision was made for sites for the erection of a law school, for new buildings for the department of botany, for a museum of general and local archæology and of ethnology, to be erected on ground purchased from Downing College. The mathematical professors are to be provided for by buildings to be erected on the site purchased from Messrs. Murtlock & Co., while the rooms now occupied by them are to be assigned, together with the bird room, when vacated, to the department of morphology. The rooms between the bird room and the department of physiology are to be assigned to the departments of physiology and morphology. The present Geological Museum in Cockerell's buildings and the rooms in Scott's buildings occupied by the University for business pur-

poses are to be appropriated to the University library as soon as they can be vacated. The site now occupied by the old Anatomical School, part of the pathological department and a portion of the unoccupied part in Downing street is to be reserved for the erection of new buildings for the medical, surgical and pathological departments.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION.

THE recent editorial of SCIENCE on the subject of the United States Fish Commission is unfortunately misleading in some of its statements, and, in justice not only to the Commissioner but to the entire personnel of the Commission, these should be corrected.

While the amount of scientific work accomplished under the direction of the Commission may not be as great as men of science might wish, it must be remembered that, after all, the primary object of the Commission is to preserve and increase the fisheries, and, so far as this can be accomplished by artificial propagation, this has been done. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that, aside from salaries, the sum to be expended in any one branch is determined by the appropriation committee, and the appropriation for 1898 contained \$132,000 for the propagation of food fishes and but \$10,500 for scientific research.

A comparison of the annual reports for a few years back will show that it is hardly just to say that 'the efficiency of the hatcheries and of methods of distribution cannot be advanced or even maintained.' In regard to the oyster the work of Dr. J. A. Ryder and others under the Fish Commission is well known, and it may be said that the investigations of the past two years compare favorably with those of previous years, and that important reports on the subject have been published.

In regard to the lobster it is hardly correct to say that 'we are not told how many eggs are killed at the hatcheries,' when the report of the Commissioner definitely says that '128,000,000 eggs were secured, producing 115,000,000 fry.' The rest of the matter is unjust because, as in the case of shad, the eggs were all obtained from animals taken for market,

and had they not been purchased by the Fish Commission the eggs would have been a total loss to mankind, and the adult lobster would have been killed instead of being returned to the water. While the sale of 'berried lobsters' is prohibited by law, very little regard is paid to the statute, as it is an easy matter to scrape off the eggs and sell the females without running the least risk. Instead of the work being analogous to 'taking all the babies born in New York City and depositing them in a baby farm,' it is like rescuing them from 'baby farms' and worse, and transferring them to a municipal orphan asylum.

That the Commissioner of Fisheries should have a practical and scientific knowledge of fishes is undeniable, but meanwhile let us at least be just to the present one. F. A. L.

[CERTAINLY the Fish Commission should be given its due. It is, as we stated in the article referred to, doing a useful work in the distribution of fry, but does F. A. L. really believe that this can be done in the most satisfactory manner under the direction of one ignorant of the life-history, habits and natural environment of fishes? What does F. A. L. regard as the probable outcome, should all the scientific departments, bureaus and surveys at Washington be placed under the charge of professional politicians and their relatives and supporters? Dishonesty would soon follow inefficiency, and the present condition of the Fish Commission, bad as it is, would be looked back to as relatively ideal. In mentioning Ryder our correspondent calls attention to work of the kind that the Commission is no longer able to carry out. If we differ from F. A. L. as to the efficiency with which the lobster is propagated, is the present Commissioner competent to decide who is right? We have no wish to suppress discussion in this JOURNAL, but it is unfortunate if men of science cannot unite in maintaining principles on which depend the scientific and economic work under the government.—ED. SCIENCE.]